



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.iowadnr.gov

Hull Identification Number Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will the IDNR provide me a new HIN tag or plate?

A. IDNR is unable to send an actual HIN plate or tag. Types of businesses that can assist with creating a HIN plate/tag might include: awards/plaque shops, local mechanic/body shops, stamp businesses, name plate businesses and/or businesses that offer engraving services.

Q. My boat has been registered in Iowa for over 30 years, why am I receiving this notice now?

A. The issue with incorrect Hull Identification Numbers is not your fault, but a problem that began in 1972 with the boat manufacturers. This is a federal mandate from USCG, not an Iowa issue. The reason you received this letter is that your boat may have one of these incorrect HINs that needs to be changed or corrected for the federal mandate.

Q. I sold this boat

A. Please write that explanation in the space that asks for the HIN or pencil tracing and forward to our office.

Q. I can't find the HIN on my boat or there is none

A. Please write that explanation in the space that asks for the HIN or pencil tracing and forward to our office.

Q. My boat is homemade and has never had a HIN number

A. Please write that explanation in the space that asks for the HIN or pencil tracing and forward to our office.

Q. My boat is stored out of State and is not available to me at this time

A. When the boat is available please verify the HIN at that time. Reminder; the boat cannot be registered until the HIN is verified.

Q. I have several boats and only received one affidavit; will I be receiving additional affidavits?

A. The affidavit that you received is the only boat in question. You will not be receiving any additional affidavits.

Q. Can't read the HIN number

A. Please write that explanation in the space that asks for the HIN or pencil tracing and forward to our office.

Q. What is the difference between a HIN and a serial number?

A. The 12 digit HIN will start with 3 or 4 alpha characters which are the initials of the manufacturer and include 8 or 9 additional numbers & characters. A serial number has between 4-9 characters and does not start with 3 or 4 alpha characters.

Q. What happens after I fill out the affidavit, will I be notified that it was received?

A. You will be notified as soon as IDNR has processed your affidavit and determines what actions need to be done. Thirteen thousand letters have been mailed out to boat owners and IDNR Staff are processing them as fast as possible.

Q. Am I responsible to put a new HIN on my boat and how do I do that?

A. If a new HIN is assigned you will be responsible for putting it on your boat. IDNR will send you a letter along with the HIN, detailing the options on how to permanently affix the HIN to your boat.